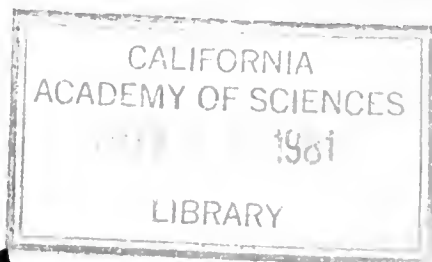


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Volume 63

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November 1981

Number 10

The Great Mono Lake Benefit Drawing

The November 12 general membership meeting will be the culmination of GGAS' year-long fund-raising drive to help save Mono Lake. A festive and exciting evening is in store for everyone.

The main event will be the Mono Lake benefit drawing with lucky winners taking home the fabulous handmade quilt of Mono Lake, the beautiful framed original watercolor of a Ruddy Duck painted specially for GGAS by Doug Gomke, the dramatic framed black and white photo of Mono Lake by Michael Beaucage, an autographed copy of *High and Wild* by Galen Rowell, a pair of cross-country skis and dinner for two at the Pelican Inn at Muir Beach.

As if this weren't enough, the two people most closely associated with Mono Lake — David Gaines and David Winkler — will provide us with the latest information about efforts to save the lake and the current state of its ecology. In addition, Michael Beaucage's short movie on Mono Lake will be shown. This impressive tribute to the lake has inspired all who have seen it.

To round out this spectacular event, there will be a report on the success of the GGAS fund-raising year, covering the 1980 Christmas Count, the spring 1981 catalog sales, the GGAS/Wallace Stegner fund appeals letter to our 6000 members and the benefit drawing campaign.

The meeting will be at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley, on Thursday, November 12, at 7:30 p.m.

—AFTON CROOKS, *Mono Lake Subcommittee of the Conservation Committee*

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Field Trips Calendar

See the October *Gull* for details on the following trips:

Sunday, November 1—Garin Ranch and Hayward Shoreline Regional Parks.

Sunday, November 8—Tennessee Valley.

Wednesday, November 11—Mini-trip to Lake Chabot. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Lake. Take the Warren or MacArthur Freeway. Leave the freeway at Dutton. Make a left at Estudillo (second stop light). Follow Estudillo to the Lake and park outside entrance (there is a fee to park inside). Rain cancels trip. Lunch optional. Leaders: Delpha de Timofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

Sunday, November 15—Briones Regional Park. Meet at 8:15 a.m. at the second parking lot at the Bear Creek Rd. entrance. From Hwy. 24 take Orinda exit and turn left onto Camino Pablo. Go north for about two miles to Bear Creek Rd. (Briones Park sign), turn right and drive four miles east to the park entrance. Carry lunch and liquids for a five-mile hike. The terrain is somewhat hilly. We should see many of the common wintering birds of the interior areas of the East Bay. Leader: Pete White (229-1714). (✓)

Saturday, November 21—Corte Madera Marsh. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking area across the street from the trailer court just south of the Lucky Dr. exit from Hwy. 101. This exit is just south of the Sir Francis Drake/Larkspur Ferry Terminal. Bring a scope, lunch and liquids. Rubber boots may also be desirable. We should see ducks, wading birds, shorebirds and perhaps Short-eared Owls. Leader: Bob Hirt (383-5337). (✓)

Thursday, November 26—Traditional Thanksgiving Outing to Point Reyes National Seashore. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, Section H, or at 10 a.m. at the Point Reyes National Seashore headquarters at Olema. We will have a leisurely day of birding and hiking in the headquarters area and Limantour Natural Area. We generally see an excellent variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and landbirds. The day will end with the Thanksgiving dinner (\$7+) at Jerry's Farmhouse in the town of Olema. Bring a light lunch, scope and clothes for cool and windy weather. Leader: Barry Spitz (461-1930 days or 454-2769 between 6 and 9 p.m.). (✓)

Sunday, December 6—Limantour Natural Area. If you wish to carpool, meet at 7:45 a.m. at Section H at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal. The terminal is just east of the Sir Francis Drake Blvd. exit from

Hwy. 101. You may also meet the group at the Limantour parking lot at **9 a.m.** Take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. to Olema, turn right on Hwy. 1, then immediately left on Bear Valley Rd. Pass the Seashore Headquarters and then turn left on Limantour Rd. Follow this road to where it ends at the parking lot. We will walk about five miles. Bring a lunch and liquids to carry with you. Dress for variable weather. You may wish to bring rubber boots and a scope. We will be looking for shorebirds and possibly raptors. Leader: George Hugenberg (526-5289).

Saturday/Sunday December 12-13—Sacramento and Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuges. On **Saturday** meet at **9 a.m.** in parking lot #15 (please note that this is a change from the meeting place of previous years) at Gray Lodge. Approach via Hwy. 99 and follow the signs out of Live Oak or Gridley. On **Sunday** meet at **8 a.m.** at the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge headquarters seven miles south of Willows. There is a state park campground in Colusa. For those wishing to stay in a motel, the Blue Gum in Willows (916-934-5401) is suggested. From the Bay Area drive east on I-80 to I-505 in Vacaville, take I-505 to I-5 and drive north to Willows for lodging or turn off sooner for the refuges. Bring lunch, scopes and clothes appropriate for the valley in December. Leaders: Dolores and Peter White (229-1714). (✓)

Note from the Field Trips Committee—Beginners are always welcome on GGAS field trips. Field trip leaders and participants are anxious to introduce new people to this activity we all enjoy. From time to time the committee will arrange trips especially planned for beginners. These trips will generally go to nearby areas to see resident species.

Beginners' Field Trip to Tilden Regional Park—Sunday, November 15. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the Nature Center parking lot. From I-80 take University Ave. until it ends at Oxford and turn left. Take Oxford to Rose and turn right. Proceed one block and turn left on Spruce. Cross Grizzly Peak and immediately turn left down hill on Cañon Dr. At the bottom of the hill turn left again to reach the Nature Center parking lot.

Designed for beginning bird watchers, this easy field trip will concentrate on identifying birds of the chaparral, woodland and grassland areas of Tilden Park. We will see a variety of resident and wintering species and we will listen for their sounds as an aid to identification. For those interested, after lunch we will caravan to the Berkeley Aquatic Park to see wintering waterfowl and shorebirds. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Leaders: Frank Lowe and Robin Pulich (848-3594 evenings).

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 524-9817 and leave a message. She will call you.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

September Observations — through September 23

It seems we had our Indian summer in June this year. Our seasonal hot and clear spell ruined the spring vagrant season; conversely the normal Santa Ana weather that interrupts our September vagrants failed to occur. Instead summer was abruptly replaced by early winter. The virtually unbroken period of coastal overcast in late August and the first half of September provided outstanding numbers of eastern vagrant warblers. Clear and windy weather halted the vagrant swell on Sept. 17, after which the winter storm track prematurely edged into Northern California. Time will tell whether the storm cycle settles in for the winter, the summer overcast returns, or we bake in Indian summer.

As always, all Farallon Island reports are from Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

WATERBIRDS

Although the vagaries of the vagrant season dominate the attention of most listers, September never fails in the area of exciting waterbirds.

The Red-necked Grebe at Stockton Sewage Ponds Sept. 11-13 (DY) was a migrant seldom seen inland. This year's fall's first Flesh-footed Shearwater was found in Monterey Bay Sept. 20 (SFB, *et al.*) and 21 (RS, *et al.*). The big pelagic news was the discovery of many **Least Storm-Petrels** in the rafts of thousands of Ashy and Black Storm-Petrels over the Monterey Submarine Canyon. Until recently the Least was unknown in Northern California and three was the previous high count. Nevertheless about **100** Least were estimated in 2000 petrels Sept. 6 (RS, *et al.*). No more than a few dozen Least were seen in perhaps 7000 petrels Sept. 20 (SFB, BRe, AB, *et al.*), but clearly many petrels were in flocks not seen. The next day possibly **10%** of 15,000-20,000 ("more petrels than I've ever seen" - RS) seemed to be Least and **300** was a conservative estimate (RS, *et al.*). Can differences of this magnitude be due merely to observational errors or biases? Hopefully not. Perhaps if real patterns in the shifting composition of this petrel horde are discerned we may know more about the reasons for its presence and especially about the influx of Least. Is this only an exceptional year in some obscure oceanographic parameter or have Least just now "discovered" Monterey Bay and begun a long-term trend? These petrel flocks also included a Wilson's Storm-Petrel Sept. 6 and 21 (RS, *et al.*).

Exciting was the report of a **Red-billed Tropicbird** halfway between SE Farallon and San Francisco Sept. 20 (PRBO). Most likely others remain to be discovered farther off our shores. White Pelicans may be more numerous than usual on San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, with numbers between 1400 and 2000 (RL). Hopefully this represents high reproductive success and not loss of alternative winter areas. Even in non-flight years we may receive **Magnificent Frigatebirds** and an adult female and an immature were seen separately flying inland over the mouth of Alder Creek, Mendocino Co., Sept. 6 (BN, BC, JC). The fall's first Cattle Egret was in Mill Valley Sept. 18 (DB). A subadult **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** in the large pond at Año Nuevo State Reserve Sept. 12 (WR, JA, FN, LN, SAS) was Northern California's third. Characteristically, it remained at this site for weeks but spent each day in hiding, thus it was not refound until after this month's cut-off date, when its twilight activities were noted. A Least Bittern at the same pond Sept. 19 (KH) represented another skulking species. Four White-faced Ibises appeared at Zmudowski State Beach Aug. 21 and from one to three were seen there through Sept. 6 (mob). Another White-faced Ibis visited Alder Creek Lagoon, Mendocino Co., Sept. 16 (TL).

At Abbott's Lagoon a White-fronted Goose was an early straggler in mid-month (mob). A Eurasian Wigeon on Bolinas Lagoon from Sept. 10(mob) was earlier still. Perhaps it summered and escaped notice while in eclipse plumage. At least one Harlequin Duck continues at Año Nuevo (DWa).

There was a strong early movement of American Golden Plovers both coastally and inland (mob). The latter included two at Petaluma in late August (JP, JS, PL), five there Sept. 4 (BDP, JP) and one at Lodi Sewage Ponds the same day (JML). A Red Knot on SE Farallon Sept. 9 was one of very few Island records. Pairs of Semipalmated Sandpipers were found at Elkhorn Slough in late August (through 30th) and Sept. 14 (both DR). Sept. 20 brought SE Farallon its second Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. Three Stilt Sandpipers encountered observers: mouth of Salmon Creek Sept. 8-9 (DE, BDP, JP), Spreckles, Monterey Co., Sept. 12 (BG) and Abbott's Lagoon Sept. 13-15 (EV, JW, DS, *et al.*). A Ruff adorned the Woodland Sugar Ponds Sept. 11-14 (TB, EG, mob).

A Parasitic Jaeger was at Coyote Creek, at the south end of San Francisco Bay, Sept. 4 (RL) and another was at Alameda Sept. 18 (KC). Near the ocean but at a very strange location was a Parasitic Jaeger at North Lake in Golden Gate Park Sept. 17 (KC). Single Long-tailed Jaegers were seen off Monterey Sept. 6 (RS, *et al.*) and Sept. 19 (DR, *et al.*). A Thayer's Gull at Abbott's Lagoon Sept. 16 was early (JG, BY,

et al.). A Franklin's Gull spent the second week of September at Stockton Sewage Ponds (DY), a favored site. Rarer was the adult Sabine's Gull at the Davis Sewage Ponds Sept. 16-19 (RB, TB, EH), but sewage ponds likewise attract this pelagic species when inland. Two Black Terns were reported from San Francisco Bay, in Fremont late August (PM) and Hayward Sewage Ponds Sept. 2 (HC, RL) and two from the coast, Zmudowski State Beach, Aug. 24-30 (mob) and the mouth of Alder Creek Sept. 6 (BN, BC, JC). The **Black Skimmer** was last seen at the Pajaro River on Aug. 29 (BLaB).

Two alcids were slightly out of place: Pigeon Guillemot south of Angel Island Sept. 6 (BH_a) and Marbled Murrelet inside Bodega Harbor Sept. 5-6 (NC). Four **Craveri's Murrelets** were off Monterey Sept. 6, along with an early Ancient Murrelet (RS, *et al.*). Another Ancient was well described from Golden Gate Promenade in San Francisco Aug. 27 (PF). A Tufted Puffin off Monterey Sept. 20 was unexpectedly an adult in partial summer plumage (SFB, *et al.*).

COASTAL STRAY MIGRANTS

Broad-winged Hawks are now known to be regular migrants past Pt. Diablo, but as these few are deviating far from the usual migration routes of their species and almost all are immature, they are clearly strays. Seven Broad-wingeds including a **dark morph** were counted Sept. 20 (DW, EE, *et al.*) and singles passed on Sept. 18 (JP, PL) and 21 (DS). Twelve Swainson's Hawks in a plowed field near Woodland Sept. 11 (TB) do not fit any of this article's headings, but any migratory concentration of this declining Californian is worth note.

Likely a single White-winged Dove produced sightings at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Sept. 16 (BY, JG, *et al.*), at Nunes Ranch late that day (JML) and at Mendoza Ranch early Sept. 18 (JG). The first Tropical Kingbird was noted at the Big Sur River mouth in Andrew Molera State Park Sept. 21 (PM). A Sage Thrasher sampled the Woodland Sugar Ponds Sept. 12-19 (EH, *et al.*). A Yellow-headed Blackbird toured Harding Golf Course at Lake Merced Sept. 12 (DG). A Hooded Oriole arrived on SE Farallon Sept. 7. Two Lawrence's Goldfinches were in Tennessee Valley Sept. 20 (JI, DT). The anticipated flight of Red Crossbills has yet to materialize, but four were in Tilden Park Aug. 31 (RSi). Green-tailed Towhees appeared on SE Farallon Sept. 4 and in Lincoln Park Sept. 10-13 (JR, MJM, BA). Sparrows visiting Pt. Reyes Lighthouse included a Vesper Sept. 20 (NB), a Sage Sept. 16-19 (mob) and a Brewer's Sept. 8-14 (RS, mob). Two more Vespers were on SE Farallon Sept. 7 and 9 and another Brewer's Sparrow was there Sept. 14.

EASTERN VAGRANTS

With a continual overcast, days of light winds at SE Farallon produced vagrant waves of increasing size Aug. 23, Sept. 3-4 and Sept. 6-7, but the main thrust arrived Sept. 12-14. On Sept. 13-14 there were 20 warbler species on the island, the second highest total ever. Except where noted, only arrival dates are reported for Farallon birds. These movements were paralleled on Pt. Reyes, where the outstanding days for arrivals were Sept. 7 and 14. Typically birds lingered for days under the overcast.

A Chimney Swift's stay on SE Farallon was unusually long for a swift, Sept. 11-14. Five Eastern Kingbirds were found: Alder Creek, Mendocino Co., Sept. 6 (BN, BC, JC), SE Farallon Sept. 6, Frankman Park Cemetery in Santa Rosa Sept. 7 (BB), Fort Funston Sept. 12 (DG, DT, *et al.*) and Zmudowski State Beach Sept. 17-19 (SH, *et al.*). The three Least Flycatchers arrived on SE Farallon Sept. 3, 15 and 16. The Brown Thrasher that summered in Carmel was last seen Sept. 19 (EM). A Swainson's Thrush of the eastern race was identified on SE Farallon Sept. 14. Four Red-eyed Vireos were about normal: Inverness Aug. 30-31 (RS, JE, *et al.*), Fish Docks and Willows Sept. 9-16 (RS, JM, mob), SE Farallon Sept. 10 and Bodega Head Sept. 13 (BDP, JP).

The table of vagrant warblers follows my established format, except that space permits only summaries for the most numerous species on SE Farallon Island and Pt. Reyes. Researchers needing dates and locations of every individual may contact me for details. The table lists 189 individuals of 20 vagrant species.

Black-and-white Warbler (total 16)			
4	SE Farallon	Aug. 23, Sept. 4, 13, 14	PRBO
11	Pt. Reyes	Sept. 3-17	mob
1	Lincoln Park, S.F.	Sept. 12	DG
Prothonotary Warbler (total 1)			
1	SE Farallon	Sept. 12-16	PRBO
Tennessee Warbler (total 10; 11 for the fall to date)			
1	SE Farallon	Sept. 12	PRBO
5	Pt. Reyes	Sept. 6-15	mob
1	Russian Gulch, Sonoma Co.	Sept. 7	JP, BDP
1	Lake Merced, S.F.	Sept. 12	DG, <i>et al.</i>
2	Golden Gate Park, S.F.	Sept. 17	KC
Virginia's Warbler (total 1)			
1	SE Farallon	Sept. 6	PRBO
Northern Parula (total 1)			
1	Russian Gulch	Sept. 5	BDP, JP
Magnolia Warbler (total 8)			
3	SE Farallon	Sept. 11, 12, 14	PRBO
3	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	Sept. 7; 13; 14-15	mob; Ros, mob; BY, CY <i>et al.</i>
1	Nunes	Sept. 14-16	PL, mob
1	Fish Docks	Sept. 16-17	JG, BY, <i>et al.</i>

Cape May Warbler (total 3)		
1	SE Farallon	Sept. 13 PRBO
1	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	Sept. 13-14 mob
1	Bodega Bay	Sept. 14 NC, MG
Black-throated Blue Warbler (total 1)		
	female Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	Sept. 15 HJ, mob
Black-throated Green Warbler (total 1)		
1	Nunes	Sept. 14-15 JP, <i>et al.</i>
Blackburnian Warbler (total 3)		
1	Mendoza	Sept. 14-15 mob
1	Nunes	Sept. 16 JML
1	Andrew Molera State Park	Sept. 21 PM
Chestnut-sided Warbler (total 8)		
2	SE Farallon	Sept. 14 PRBO
1	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	Sept. 13 mob
2	Nunes	Sept. 13-15; 17 mob; AG, WG
2	Lincoln Park, S.F.	Sept. 10 JR
1	Andrew Molera State Park	Sept. 21 PM
Bay-breasted Warbler (total 2)		
1	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	Sept. 14 PL, <i>et al.</i>
1	Nunes	Sept. 14 BY, CY
Blackpoll Warbler (total 58)		
19	SE Farallon	Sept. 3, 6-8, 11-15, 18 PRBO
30	Pt. Reyes	Aug. 27-31; Sept. 5; 7; 12-20 mob
2	Russian Gulch	Sept. 4; 7 JP, BDP
1	Russian River	Sept. 15 JP
1	Salmon Creek	Sept. 15 JP
1	Bodega Bay	Sept. 15 JP
1	Muddy Hollow	Sept. 7 DS, <i>fide</i> DT
1	Tennessee Valley	Sept. 12 GM, MM
1	Hopkins Marine Sta., P.G.	Sept. 15 AB
1	Lake Solano, Yolo Co.	Sept. 18 JL
Palm Warbler (total 5)		
1	Salmon Creek	Sept. 12 BA, DSi
3	Fish Docks	Sept. 14; 16; 16-17 MW, <i>et al.</i> ; JG, BY, <i>et al.</i>
1	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	Sept. 20 NB
Ovenbird (total 7)		
6	SE Farallon	Sept. 3, 7, 11, 12(2), 13 PRBO
1	Andrew Molera State Park	Sept. 21 PM
Northern Waterthrush (total 5)		
2	SE Farallon	Sept. 4, 12 PRBO
2	Pt. Reyes Willows	Sept. 7-12 mob
1	Carmel River Mouth	Sept. 10 BLaB
Mourning Warbler (total 4)		
2	SE Farallon	Sept. 13, 14 PRBO
1	Pt. Reyes Willows	Sept. 7-12 BR, JG, mob
1	Carmel River Mouth	Aug. 29-31 JM, mob
Hooded Warbler (total 1)		
1	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	Sept. 15-19 HJ, mob
Canada Warbler (total 6)		
3	SE Farallon	Sept. 4(2), 13 PRBO
1	Fish Docks	Sept. 16 JG, BY, <i>et al.</i>
1	Tennessee Valley	Sept. 12-13 GM, MM, <i>et al.</i>
1	near Livermore	Aug. 27-28 DSc, BR

American Redstart (total 48)

13	SE Farallon	Sept. 3-4, 7, 9, 12-15	PRBO
23	Pt. Reyes	Aug. 28-29; Sept. 4-14; 16-19	mob
male	Russian Gulch	Sept. 4-5	BDP, JP
2	Russian River	Sept. 15	JP
1	Bodega Bay	Sept. 9-13	BDP, JP
1	Palomarin	Sept. 5	PRBO
1	Tennessee Valley	Sept. 12	GM, MM
1	Lincoln Park, S.F.	Sept. 4	DM
1	Fort Funston, S.F.	Sept. 10	DM
1	Moss Beach, San Mateo Co.	Sept. 5	DT, KHo, <i>et al.</i>
1	Monterey	Sept. 6	RS, <i>et al.</i>
1	Hopkins Marine Sta., P.G.	Sept. 14	AB
1	Pebble Beach, Mont. Co.	Sept. 21	SH

The totals for **Mourning Warbler** (4) and Canada Warbler (6) are excellent. The early-peaking American Redstart (48) and Black-and-white Warbler (16) were also well represented. The **Prothonotary Warbler** was a new species for SE Farallon and Northern California's ninth. Not included in the table is a possible Pine Warbler at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Sept. 13-14 (RD, BH, RoS, BY CY, *et al.*). If correct and accepted this would be the fifth Northern California record and the earliest for the state.

A Bobolink visited Nunes Ranch Sept. 6 (JML) and others arrived on SE Farallon Sept. 6 and 9. Likewise, three Farallon Orchard Orioles (Aug. 28, Sept. 6, Sept. 9) outnumbered one at Pt. Reyes Willows Sept. 12 (mob). Conversely, Farallon Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (Aug. 23 and Sept. 14) were outnumbered by mainland birds, five to two. The coastal sightings were: two in Inverness Aug. 31 (RS, *et al.*), Pt. Reyes National Seashore headquarters Sept. 5 (MG, HG, *et al.*), Bodega Bay Sept. 13 (JP, BDP) and another there Sept. 19 (DB, PC). Both Lark Buntings were only seen once, one in Lincoln Park, San Francisco, Sept. 4 (DM) and the other in fields by Mendoza Schoolhouse Sept. 17 (MG, HG, DRi). Clay-colored Sparrows are always conspicuous on SE Farallon, as shown by this month's ten. Their arrival dates were Aug. 23 (2), Sept. 6, 9, 12 and 13 (5). Other Clay-colored Sparrows were in Inverness Aug. 30 (RS) and at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Sept. 8-17 (RS, mob).

Observers: Jean Allen, Bev Anderson, Stephen F. Bailey, Alan Baddrige, Dennis Beall, Ted Beedy (TB), Florence Bennett, Laurence C. Binford, Neil Blank, Rick Blom, Tony Briggs, Betty Burrige, Bob Campbell, Jerry Campbell, Kurt Campbell, Howard Cogswell (HC), Pam Conley, Herold Connon, Nancy Conzett, Richard Davis, Zachary Denning, Doug Ellis, Ed Fly, Jules Evens, Peter Fritz, Bud Fry, Bruce Gerow, Al Ghorso, Wilma Ghorso, Doug Gomke, Phil Gordon, Ed Greaves, Helen Green, Michael Green, Jeff Greenhouse, Kem Hainebach (KH), Leo Halford, Ed Harper, Sid Harrison, Barkley Hastings (BH_a), Bob Hirt (BH),

Ken Howard (KHo), George Hugenberg, Julia Ingham, Hans Johansen, Bill Jones, Bruce LaBar, Jeri M. Langham, Paul Lehman, Bill Lenarz, Phil Lenna (PL), Tim Liguori, John Lovio, Roy Lowe, Eugenc Makishima, Marie Mans (MM), Gloria Markowitz, Robin May, Ann McPherson, Peter Metropulos, Mark Miller, Eleanor Mitchell (EM), many observers (mob), Molly Jean Monheit, Joe Morlan, Dan Murphy, Fran Nelson, Leroy Nelson, Bess Nericcio, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon reports thanks to Phil Henderson), Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Bill Reese (BRe), David Rice (DRi), Bob Richmond (BR), Jean Richmond, Don Roberson (DR), Wilma Rockman, Don Schmoltdt (DSc), Dave Shuford (DS), Dianne Sierra (DSi), Rich Sintchak (RSi), Sequoia Audubon Society, Rich Stallcup (RS), John Stirling, Roger Stone (RoS), Dorothy Tobkin, Ed Vine, Derek Watson (DWa), Jack Whetstone, Mike Wihler, Dianne Williams (DW), Steve Wilson, David Yee, Bob Yutzy, Carol Yutzy.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*
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(phone 548-9507; or Karen L. Bailey at 642-3327 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.)

Conservation Notes

THE PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE AND MONO LAKE

The Mono Lake lawsuit addresses the conflict created by case law which, on the one hand, protects the rights of the general public to various nonconsumptive uses of the state's navigable waters and, on the other, affords protection to consumptive uses established under state water rights.

The controversy began over 40 years ago when the City of Los Angeles acquired the right to appropriate the water in four of the five creeks that feed Mono Lake. In recent years, exercise of these rights has caused the level of the lake to drop one to two feet per year, which has increased the lake's salinity, affected the food source for migratory waterfowl and destroyed an island rookery.

The courts have long recognized the public's right to tidelands for navigation, commercial use and fishing, as well as the right to use and protect the navigable inland waters. These public rights or public trust uses are called "public trust easements" and have always prevailed over the water rights of riparian owners or appropriative uses. There is no right of compensation conferred on private owners when the public trust use prevails.

A 1980 California Supreme Court case declared that the rights to navigation, commerce and fishing were not exhaustive of the protected public trust easements; also included for tidelands were ecological areas for scientific studies, open space and protecting habitat for birds and marine life. The Mono Lake case will have to decide whether this recent interpretation includes similar protection for inland waters such as Mono Lake and its tributaries.

There are recognized limits to public trust easements. The Legislature, if its purpose is to promote navigation, commerce or fishing, may limit an expressly stated public trust easement. The Legislature may also expressly delegate the decision to limit easements to agencies. While appropriative water rights are under the control of the State Water Resources Control Board, no express delegation of public trust easements was given to the Board. At issue is whether the Board has authority to grant Los Angeles the right to appropriate Mono Lake water; if it does, can the Board allow Los Angeles to vary its consumption year to year, effectively controlling the scope of interference with the public's rights without legislative or agency approval?

Another limit is equitable estoppel. Can Los Angeles claim reliance on years of past use? Each new year brings new water to Mono Lake and the natural state can be restored by exercising the public trust easement at any time. Have the years of appropriative use by Los Angeles created an expectation of continued use which should prevail over public trust uses?

The California Supreme Court has not to date defined the "navigable" waters which are traditionally protected by public trust easements. State appellate courts have said the test is one which provides for recreational boating and public trust uses can prevail even if only "navigable" in part of the year. Does this definition apply to all inland waters, i.e., to the streams and lakes feeding streams and lakes feeding Mono Lake? Also, what happens when one public trust use is in conflict with a second public trust use?

The legal issues facing the court are several. The outcome will affect conservation efforts to protect all our natural resources, not just the waterways and tidelands. It is likely to be the most significant court decision in the area of the public trust doctrine in this century.

—FRANK LOWE, *Mono Lake Subcommittee*

EAST BAY SHORELINE

On September 17, CalTrans held a public meeting in San Pablo to discuss "operational improvements" to Interstate 80 between the Bay Bridge and the Carquinez Bridge. CalTrans has under study several

alternatives for dealing with existing bottlenecks, planning for future traffic growth and connecting to the new I-80 (Hoffman Blvd.). CalTrans stated its objectives as (A) encouraging use of high occupancy vehicles, (B) improving traffic flow and (C) improving safety.

Two projects were discussed: the first is aimed at reducing congestion between Solano and the Bay Bridge using the existing rights-of-way. According to the CalTrans spokesman, the plan is to rely on ramp metering and special lanes in this project. An EIR should be available early in 1982. The second project is much larger and not so well defined. The alternatives under discussion range from adding two or more new lanes to the entire twenty-mile stretch to exploring transit improvement alternatives. The tentative CalTrans schedule for this project shows release of the draft EIR in January 1983. Governmental approvals are expected by March 1984, with construction to begin in March 1985.

Attendance at the public meeting was largely homeowners concerned about the possibility of widening the right-of-way. A number of vocal opponents of carpool lanes also attended. Environmentally concerned citizens were under-represented: more concern for the ecology of the area was expressed by CalTrans personnel than by the audience. It is important that GGAS continue to track this project: it could have serious impact upon the entire Albany-Berkeley-Emeryville shoreline.

—TRUDI JACKSON, *Regional Subcommittee*

DON'T MISS THE COUNT!

The Golden Gate Audubon Society's 1981 Christmas Count will begin bright and early on Sunday morning, December 20. If you haven't been contacted by the compiler, please get in touch with him. We need all the help we can get! The compiler again this year is Doug Gomke, 1601 Green St., #2, San Francisco, 94123. He can be reached by phone at 885-1480 or 441-3804 anytime between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Cooper Society Meeting

What makes a good goose parent? What is it like for Canada Geese breeding in the cold expanses of arctic North America? On Monday, November 9, you can discover all this and more at the meeting of the Northern Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Society. Dr. Dennis Raveling of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Biology at UC Davis will present a talk entitled "Reproductive success of Canada Geese in relation to age, social organization and survival: the role of experience."

Dr. Raveling has been studying all aspects of the breeding biology of

these fascinating birds for many years and his painstaking work has earned him a world-wide reputation as an expert in the field. All people interested in birds, no matter what their level of expertise, are encouraged to attend. The meeting will begin at 8 p.m. in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley, preceded by a business meeting at 7:30 p.m.

News from The Ranch

Audubon Canyon Ranch is comprised of several canyons. At Ranch headquarters the canyon in which the rookery is located has been called the "Main Canyon." Henceforth, by action of the Board of Directors, it is designated the William Stanton Picher Canyon in honor of Stan Picher whose devoted and loving efforts have been the guiding hand in the maintenance and development of ACR.

Helen Pratt's study of the heronry for 1981 revealed that there were six fewer breeding pairs of herons than last year — 27 versus 33. Their nesting success was normal. The number of nesting egrets was up by 45 — 148 as compared to 103 in 1980. Their nesting success was slightly below average and in part this may be due to the raids on ten nests by raccoons.

—BETTY BOYD

Backyard Birders' Question Box Retires

For a number of issues over the past year or so, *The Gull* has run Kay Steinberg's excellent articles under the general heading, "Backyard Birders' Question Box." They were well researched and beautifully written; ninety per cent of the letters I received regarding *The Gull* praised them. Kay now feels that she can no longer commit herself to the time it takes to produce a column. She writes that she hopes some other member will take over the idea and continue the column. I do, too, but I want to thank Kay for a really informative and highly appreciated series. Her precise language and excellent content will be missed by this editor.

—NANCY CONZETT, *Editor*

Mexico with Ted Chandik

Expect to see well over 120 species if you go on the Victor Emanuel Tour to Mexico with Ted Chandik of Palo Alto next spring. Described as a tour which presents Mexico at her best — a striking combination of colorful tropical birds in a variety of sunny habitats against a background of magnificent Mayan ruins, the itinerary includes Palenque, Yucatan and Cozumel, March 5-18, 1982, with a Montebello extension March 18-23.

For full information contact Ted at (415) 493-5330.

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

I am astonished and distressed by the unintelligent and careless mistake in the date of the September 10 meeting of the Society. I think you should have been courteous enough to send out a correction to the membership. You had plenty of time.

Realizing the date was wrong, I phoned. My husband and I were two of the six people who were there to see the beautiful film on eagles and to hear the report on the condor situation. There are usually up to 150 in attendance.

I also feel very sorry for the time and effort expended by the people who arranged the display and showed the film despite the few present. I hope you will have a more competent editor for next editions.

—MRS. JOHN L. HASTINGS, *Albany*

I take full responsibility for the error in dates and I apologize to those members who were inconvenienced. The error was announced on the Rare Bird Alert recording, on the GGAS answering message, through a message attached to the door of the GGAS office and also by a sign placed at the church. One man who contacted President Zablackis said he did not want apologies, he wished to see the films. They will be shown at a future general membership meeting.

For the past few months we have had no Program Committee. It is sorely needed and we urgently solicit volunteers. The position of Gull editor is also open, Mrs. Hastings.

—Editor

Editor:

The Purist again: objecting to the "Juvenal Semipalmated Sandpipers" on page 112 of the September *Gull*. Your references in response to a previous letter were scholarly, proving only, however, that each author follows the custom of the author before.

With a space capsule beyond Saturn no longer can we use the example of Ptolemy. Here's to the first bold step toward a "Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper."

—THE PURIST, *Berkeley, where else?*

Bylaw Revision and Additions

At the Annual Membership Potluck Dinner, June 19, 1981, several changes in and additions to the Bylaws were submitted to and approved by the membership. The revision, in brief, is as follows: under *Article I: Membership*, several changes were made with respect to adding Asso-

ciate membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society as another category of membership, in addition to Regular, Family, Student, Sustaining, Supporting, Contributing, Donor, Life and Associate membership of National Audubon Society. The additions were adopted to conform with changes in California Corporation Law, recommended to GGAS by National Society, and are summarized as follows: *Article XII: Indemnification of Directors, Officers, Employees and Other Agents*. This article deals with protection of officers, directors and others acting for GGAS in various capacities in certain types of legal proceedings and defines who shall be indemnified, in what situations and with Board and Court approval required. *Article XIII: Self-Dealing*. This article was added to bring GGAS in compliance with Section 5233 of California Corporations Code. The article defines self-dealing, discusses exceptions to self-dealing and delineates methods of averting self-dealing transactions.

Complete copies of the Bylaws can be obtained from the GGAS office.

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Jane E. Conant

Memorial and honorary gifts and bequests will be used as specified by the donors. Acknowledgments will be made in *The Gull* and personally by the Corresponding Secretary, Minnie Groshong. Please send checks made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society to: Corresponding Secretary, GGAS, 2718 Telegraph Avenue, #206, Berkeley, CA 94705-1179. All gifts are tax deductible.



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THE GULL

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$25 per year (individual); \$32 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$6 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$15 per year. Senior citizen individual, \$17, senior citizen family, \$19. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**